

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1231

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

USINT ALGIERS

USUN NEW YORK 1605

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 11568

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PORG OAU XZ XF

SUBJECT: OAU: INTERNAL PROBLEMS AND LIKELY FUTURE
POLICY THRUST

REF: ADDIS 11432

1. SUMMARY: IN RECENT TOUR D'HORIZON, OAU ASSISTANT SECGEN FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, A.E. OSANYA-NYYNEQUE, CANDIDLY EXPRESSED SHARP CRITICISM OF NEW OAU ADMIN SECGEN WILLIAM MBOUMOUA ETEKI. ETEKI, HE SAID, WAS STALKING HORSE FOR FRANCO-PHONE-ARAB ALLIANCE ATTEMPTING TO DOMINATE OAU. IN ADDITION, ETEKI WAS RAPIDLY DESTROYING ANY BUREAUCRATIC ORGANIZATION AND EFFICIENCY LEFT IN OAU SECRETARIAT. IN NEAR TERM AND CERTAINLY AT UNGA, NYYNEQUE BELIEVES OAU POLICIES WILL BE "RADICAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

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PRO-ARAB." WITHIN SIX MONTHS, HOWEVER, NYYNEQUE ESTIMATED

REACTION WILL HAVE SET IN, ETEKI'S INCOMPETENCE EVIDENT TO ALL AND HIS JOB IN JEOPARDY. END SUMMARY.

2. ETEKI, NYNEQUE SAID, WON CURRENT POSITION IN DEAL BETWEEN CAMEROON PRESIDENT AHIDJO AND ALGERIAN PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE AND REPRESENTS FRANCOPHONE-ARAB ALLIANCE DEDICATED TO CONTROL OF OAU POLICIES. IN SHORT PERIOD SEC GEN ETEKI HAS MOVED RAPIDLY TO DOWNGRADE INFLUENCE OF ANGLOPHONE SECRETARIAT STAFF MEMBERS. NEW SEC GEN REGULARLY BYPASSES ANGLOPHONES BEARING OFFICIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR OAU TASKS IN PREFERENCE FOR FRANCO-PHONES WHO MAY BE ATTACHED TO NON-RELEVANT OAU DEPARTMENTS. FOR EXAMPLE, IT WAS ORIGINALLY PLANNED FOR ENGLISH-SPEAKING DECOLONIZATION CHIEF TO ACCOMPANY SEC GEN TO UNGA (CF. REFTEL, PARA 2). ALTHOUGH FORMER'S EXTREMIST VIEWS COMPATIBLE WITH ETEKI'S ON COLONIALIZATION AND DECOLONIALIZATION TO BE PRINCIPAL TOPIC OF ETEKI'S VISIT, FRANCOPHONE CHIEF OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION IS NOW SCHEDULED TO ACCOMPANY SEC GEN TO NEW YORK.

3. ACCORDING TO NYNEQUE, ETEKI HAS HELD NO "CABINET MEETINGS" SINCE ASSUMING OFFICE AND CURRENTLY RULES SECRETARIAT BY EXECUTIVE FIAT. HIS DECISIONS REPORTEDLY ARE HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY CAMEROON AMBASSADOR HERE; ASSISTANT SEC GEN FOR EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC, CULTURAL AND HEALTH AFFAIRS, NOUREDDINE DJOUDI (ALGERIAN); AND ASSISTANT SEC GEN FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS, KAMANDA WA KAMANDA (ZAIRE). NYNEQUE STATED THAT DJOUDI, WHO WAS APPOINTED TO POST ONLY LAST MAY, NOW EXERTS VAST INFLUENCE IN SECRETARIAT AND HELPS TO CEMENT FRANCOPHONE-ARAB CONTROL. AFTER ETEKI TOOK OFFICE THIS MONTH, DJOUDI ARROGANTLY TOLD FELLOW ASSISTANT SEC GEN'S THAT BECAUSE OF HIS (DJOUDI'S) SELF-STYLED "OUTSTANDING DIPLOMATIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE," ETEKI WOULD RELY PRIMARILY UPON HIM TO DIRECT SECRETARIAT. THIS HAS BECOME THE PATTERN.

4. ETEKI, NYNEQUE SAID, CARES ONLY FOR AFRICAN POLITICS AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE REORGANIZATION OF OAU. OTHER OAU DEPARTMENTS ARE LEFT TO FUNCTION IN VOID. NYNEQUE ESPECIALLY GALLED BY LACK OF IMPORTANCE PAID TO ECONOMIC ISSUES BECAUSE "GOOD ARAB FRIENDS" WILL BANKROLL AFRICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. GIVEN ETEKI'S LACK OF ECONOMIC KNOWLEDGE AND INTEREST, NYNEQUE ACKNOWLEDGES CURRENT SITUATION ALLOWS HIM FREEDOM "TO COMMIT MURDER" IN ECONOMIC

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POLICY FIELD. HE IS AWARE, HOWEVER, THAT RESULTING DISORGANIZATION WOULD SEVERELY INJURE OAU, AFRICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LONG-RANGE GOAL OF AFRICAN UNITY.

5. LOCAL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC CORPS IS AWARE OF PROBLEMS DEVELOPING AT OAU AND REPORTEDLY HAS CAUTIONED ETEKI AGAINST PRECIPITOUS REORGANIZATION OF SECRETARIAT. WHILE FUTURE CHANGES HAVE BEEN TABLED FOR MOMENT, STAFF MORALE PROBLEMS ABOUND. FOR EXAMPLE,

NYYNEQUE REPORTED HIS MORNINGS ARE OFTEN ENTIRELY CONSUMED IN MEETINGS WITH IRATE STAFFERS IN HIS DEPARTMENT WHO ARE UP IN ARMS OVER ETEKI'S POLICIES. HE ADDED THAT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT WAS NOT UNIQUE IN DISCONTENT.

6. ALTHOUGH ETEKI IS CURRENTLY MARKING TIME RE ADMINISTRATIVE AND POLICY CHANGES, NYYNEQUE PREDICTS FREE-WHEELING, DISRUPTIVE, PRO-FRANCOPHONE AND ARAB OAU POLICIES FOR NEXT SIX-TWELVE MONTHS. BY THAT TIME, ANGLOPHONES AND PRO-AFRICAN UNITY FRANCOPHONES, SUCH AS ZAIRE, WILL HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF ETEKI AND HIS ANTICS. ETEKI'S REMOVAL WOULD THEN BECOME DISTINCTLY POSSIBLE.

7. COMMENT: NYYNEQUE IS CANDID, CAPABLE, ANGLOPHONE (KENYAN) TECHNOCRAT WHO BELIEVES HE IS ON WAY OUT. HE BELIEVED TO ACCURATELY REFLECT EAST AFRICAN DISSATISFACTION WITH RISING INDLUENCE OF MAGHREB'S IN OAU AFFAIRS. EVEN ALLOWING FOR PERSONAL BITTERNESS ENGENDERED BY HIS TENUOUS POSITION, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THERE IS SUBSTANCE FOR HIS VIEWS AND THAT OAU SECRETARIAT IS IN FOR TROUBLED PERIOD.
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